

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
September 18, 2006**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DAVID L. HUBER  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
Western District of Kentucky**

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**FORMER FRUIT OF THE LOOM EXECUTIVE AND FIVE OTHERS INDICTED IN  
CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD FRUIT OF THE LOOM**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that on September 13, 2006, a federal Grand Jury in Bowling Green **returned an Indictment** charging **KALEN W. WATKINS**, age 44, of 2138 Mt. Victor Lane, Bowling Green, Kentucky, **LAURA LEIGH WELLS**, age 31, 2616 Crystal Falls, Lexington, Kentucky, **KENNETH SCOTT HARRIS**, age 44, 2502 Driskill Dr., Euless, Texas, **CURTIS L. HOPKINS**, age 43, 2004 Clearfield Ct., Corbin, Kentucky, **RONALD R. POLLOCK**, age 48, 174 Southwind Dr., Bowling Green, Kentucky, and **TYRONE N. TACKETT**, age 35, 3360 Holt Circle, Pensacola, Florida, with conspiracy to commit mail fraud, money laundering, and obstruction of justice.

The Indictment alleges that between May 1, 1998, and September 30, 2003, **Watkins** was Fruit of the Loom's (FOL) Environmental Director in Bowling Green and in that position had the authority to award FOL contracts and to approve payment for invoices submitted by FOL contractors. The Indictment charges that **Watkins** concocted a scheme to defraud FOL by hiring companies owned by his co-conspirators to perform services for FOL, and approving fraudulent invoices submitted by those companies.

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The Indictment alleges that Watkins' co-conspirators used the following companies to defraud FOL:

| DEFENDANT            | COMPANY                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Laura Leigh Wells    | Environmental Technology Associates |
| Kenneth Scott Harris | Risk Management Group               |
| Curtis Hopkins       | Cobra Coal Company, Inc.            |
| Ronald Pollock       | Pollock & Associates                |
| Tyrone Tackett       | Cyclone, Inc.                       |

As part of the concocted scheme the Indictment charges that **Wells, Harris, Hopkins, Pollock, and Tackett** paid **Watkins** hundreds of thousands of dollars in kickbacks in return for FOL business. The Indictment also charges **Watkins, Hopkins, Pollock** and **Tackett** with money laundering. **Watkins** is also charged with obstruction of justice for fabricating documents in response to a grand jury subpoena. **Hopkins** was also charged with obstruction for attempting to persuade a witness not to provide accurate information to an FBI Special Agent.

If convicted, the maximum penalties for each defendant are:

1. **Watkins**--95 years imprisonment, a \$2,250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years; and
2. **Wells**--5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years; and
3. **Harris**--5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years; and
4. **Hopkins**--35 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years; and

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5. **Pollock**—25 years imprisonment, a \$750,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years; and
6. **Tackett**—25 years imprisonment, a \$750,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Weiser, and it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. All the defendants are scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on September 20, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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